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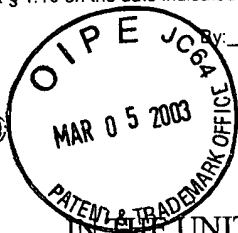
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Nancy Foster
Nancy Foster

PATENT

Customer Number 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4853.0073-00000



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:)

Hisashi SEMBA et al.)

Serial No.: 09/870,821)

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filed: June 1, 2001)

Examiner: S. Saucier

For: AN ENZYME REACTION)
METHOD AND A METHOD FOR)
ENZYMATICALLY PRODUCING)
AN OPTICALLY ACTIVE)
CYANOHYDRIN)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

Applicants now respond to the Office Action mailed February 5, 2003. The Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I, claims 1 to 4, which the Examiner contends are "drawn to a first method, a method of performing an enzymatic reaction using an immobilized enzyme with 10% or more water content, classified in class 435, subclass ? depending on enzyme." See action at page 2.

Group II, claims 5 to 10, which the Examiner contends are "drawn to a second method, a method of performing an enzyme reaction using an aldehyde as a substrate, classified in class 435, subclass ? depending on enzyme." *Id.*

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Group III, claim 11, which the Examiner contends are "drawn to a third method, a method of enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin using an acid substance as stabilizer, classified in class 435, subclass ? depending on enzyme." *Id.*

Group IV, claims 12 to 15, which the Examiner contends are "drawn to a fourth method, a method of enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin using prussic acid in an organic phase, classified in class 435, subclass ? depending on the enzyme." *Id.*

Group V, claims 16 to 21, which the Examiner contends are "drawn to a fifth method, a method of enzymatically producing an optically active cyanohydrin comprising performing a distillation, classified in class 435, subclass ? depending on enzyme." *Id.*

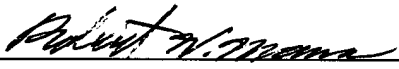
Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 to 4.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 5, 2003

By: 
Robert W. Mann
Reg. No. 48,555

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com